

KLONDIKE KATE: A BIBLIOGRAPHY

Introduction

"Klondike Kate" is a name which could be applied to any Katherine or Kathleen who lived in Dawson at the turn of the century but it has become associated with just one - Kathleen Eloisa Rockwell.

Born in Junction City, Kansas, 4 October 1876, Kate first came to Dawson in 1900 with the Savoy Theatrical Company of Victoria after working briefly in Skagway and Whitehorse. She worked as a variety entertainer and dance-hall girl until 1902 when she left for Victoria and opened a nickelodeon. Not long after, she returned to the States. Although she briefly visited Dawson on a few occasions, she did not live there again.

Klondike Kate's attachment to Alexander Pantages, owner of Dawson's Orpheum theatre resulted in a breach-of-promise suit in 1905. After several broken marriages she married John Matson, a Dawson miner, in 1933. She returned to Dawson for a visit but did not stay. She married once more after Matson's death in 1946.

Although Kate's life after leaving Dawson was neither exciting nor lucrative, she was an excellent self-publicist; by the end of the 1920's she began capitalizing on her life as "Queen of the Yukon."

By the 1940's she was a celebrity again. Until her death in 1957 she promoted herself and the gold rush legends of which she had been a part.

Klondike Kate is mentioned frequently in gold rush literature but these references are quite brief; in addition, her name is also used as a symbol of the gold rush. The following references are both informative and enjoyable.

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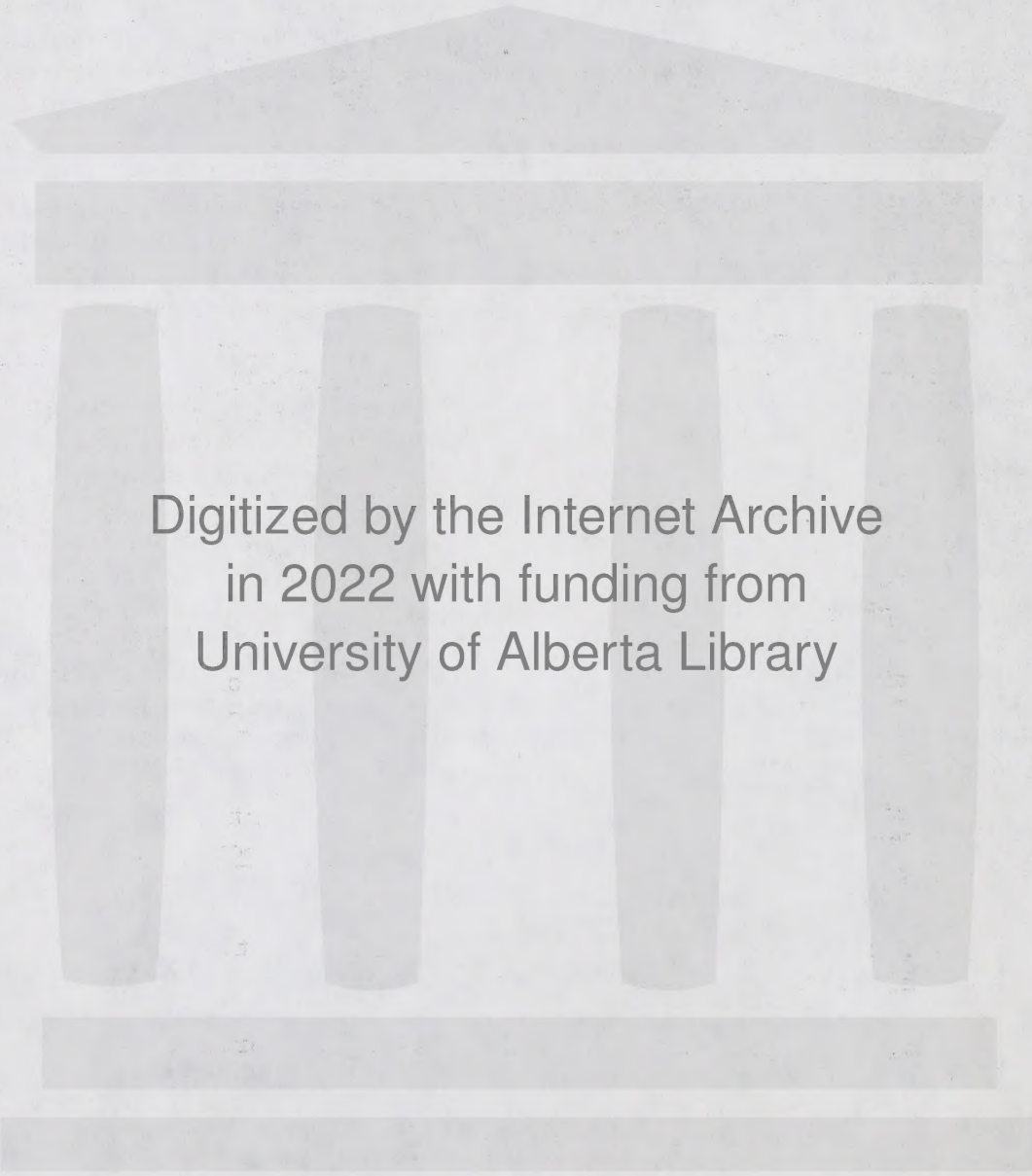
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